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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6221

BILL NUMBER: SB 93

NOTE PREPARED: Mar 23, 2007

BILL AMENDED: Mar 22, 2007

SUBJECT: Health Facility Sprinklers for Fire Safety.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Landske

FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Mays

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 2nd House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
X FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill requires certain health facilities to have automatic fire sprinkler systems before July 1, 2012. The bill provides that if a system is not installed before July 1, 2010, a plan for completion must be submitted to the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH).

The bill also requires the ISDH, to publish in the Department's Consumer Guide to Nursing Homes the types of fire sprinkler systems and smoke detectors in a nursing home.

Effective Date: (Amended) Upon passage; July 1, 2007.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) The bill requires the Department to publish in the Consumer Guide to Nursing Homes information regarding the type and locations of the smoke detection system and the sprinkler system in each nursing facility. The sprinkler status of facilities is already included in the Consumer Guide; the Department has added the information as the facility surveys collect the data. The smoke detector status of each facility can be added as the annual facility surveys occur throughout the year. The Department reports that this requirement can be performed with existing resources.

General Background Information: The bill would require facilities, not currently under a requirement to do so, to have automatic fire sprinkler systems installed throughout the facility by July 1, 2012. Current building requirements for nursing facilities require automatic fire sprinkler systems, so new construction would not be affected. The State Department of Health reports that of about 516 certified comprehensive care facilities in the state, there are currently 9 health facilities in Indiana that do not have automatic fire sprinkler systems. An additional 18 facilities are reported to be partially protected by sprinkler systems.

Comprehensive care units reported as partially sprinklered that are located in hospitals and licensed as hospital beds are not affected by the provisions of the bill. A freestanding comprehensive care facility that is owned by a hospital but licensed as a nursing facility would be required to comply with the provisions of the bill. There are five long-term care units that appear to be located in hospital facilities that are reported to be partially sprinklered.

The State Department of Health reports that facilities are currently required to meet the standards that were in place when they were initially constructed or certified. Additionally, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requirements have been revised to require that nursing facilities install battery-operated smoke detectors in resident rooms and public areas if they do not have an automatic sprinkler system or a hard-wired smoke detection system in those areas.

(Revised) *Indiana Veterans' Home*: The Indiana Veterans' Home has three buildings used for nursing facility comprehensive care: Pyle Hall, McArthur Hall, and Mitchell Hall. Two other buildings, Tecumseh and Lincoln Halls are used for residential care only. Dewey Hall is used for administrative purposes. Currently, the Veterans' Home is in the process of upgrading the fire protection and suppression systems in all six buildings to include sprinklers in all patient rooms. Fire alarm systems, including smoke detectors in each room, are to be upgraded at the same time. The Veterans' Home is excluded from the requirements of the bill.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (Revised) Nursing facilities that are partially sprinklered or not sprinklered that are owned and operated by local units of government would be required to install sprinkler systems. Of the facilities currently listed as being affected by the provisions of the bill, none are believed to be owned by local units of government.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Indiana State Department of Health; Office of Medicaid Policy and Planning of the Family and Social Services Administration.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: State Department of Health, and "State of Indiana List of Appropriations Made by the 2005 Indiana General Assembly for the Biennium July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2007", Indiana Veterans' Home Capital Budget Request Detail.

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